

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Department of Mental Health Strategic Plan

- The Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse continues to implement strategies to accomplish the substance abuse objectives of the Department of Mental Health Strategic Plan developed in 2001. The plan places a high priority on the prevention of substance abuse and other mental health problems. Original objectives for the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse are to reduce binge drinking among Missouri college students and delay onset of use of alcohol and other drugs by Missouri youth. A third objective—to increase the number of pregnant women admitted to CSTAR treatment programs—was added in the plan’s first update [22]. Baseline and annual measures for these objectives are documented in the department’s Strategic Plan Information Network.
  - The CORE Institute Survey was administered in 2001 to students at 10 Missouri public universities and colleges. The survey found that 47.6 percent of the students surveyed were binge drinkers, defined as consuming at least five alcoholic drinks on a single drinking occasion at least once during the two weeks preceding the survey. The survey was administered again in 2002 at those same schools and at two additional Missouri universities. The 2002 binge drinking rate was 46.3 percent [74].
  - The Missouri Student Survey was administered in 2000 to Missouri students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. According to that survey, the average age of first use of alcohol was 12.8 years of age. The survey was again conducted in 2002, with first use of alcohol occurring at an average age of 12.7 years. In the 2000 survey, the average age of first use of cigarettes was 12.2 years; in the 2002 survey the average age of first cigarette use was 12.1 years. The average age of first marijuana use was 13.6 years in the 2000 survey. In 2002, the average was 13.7 years of age. The small differences in results are statistically insignificant and therefore inconclusive in determining whether changes have begun to occur in the average age of first use of these drugs [45, 49].
  - The Department of Mental Health’s CTRAC system collects information on the pregnancy status of clients entering substance abuse treatment programs. Consistent with federal requirements, the Division admits pregnant women into treatment programs on a priority basis. The unduplicated count of pregnant women admitted in recent years has increased steadily from 176 in fiscal year 1998 to 281 in fiscal year 2002 [24].

### New Data on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Released in 2002

- The National Household Survey on Drug Abuse was expanded beginning in 1999 to make it possible to estimate the prevalence of alcohol and drug use in each state. In 2002, additional Missouri estimates were produced using combined data from the 1999 and 2000 surveys [66, 67]. Some of the findings are:
  - **Alcohol:** Among the population ages 12 and older, Missouri’s overall percentage of current drinkers (those consuming alcohol within 30 days prior to the survey) in 2000 was 44.8 percent, compared to 46.6 percent nationally. In this same age group, 20.2 percent of Missouri residents were binge drinkers, consuming at least five drinks on a single drinking occasion at least once in the preceding 30 days. The national rate in 2000 was 20.6

percent. Alcohol use among adolescents 12-17 years of age was 16.1 percent, slightly lower than the national rate of 16.4 percent. Binge drinking was 10.5 percent in Missouri and 10.4 percent in the U.S. for this age group. Alcohol use among the 18-25 age group was higher in Missouri than nationally, with current use running 58.9 percent in Missouri compared to 56.8 percent overall in the U.S. Binge drinking was also more prevalent in Missouri—39.1 percent in Missouri and 37.8 percent nationwide. Missouri's population age 26 and older had lower rates of alcohol use and binge alcohol use than the national averages.

- **Marijuana:** Missouri has a lower prevalence of marijuana use than the national average. Among adolescents and adults 12 years of age and older, 4.3 percent of Missouri residents and 4.8 percent of the U.S. population were current marijuana users. In the adolescent age group of 12-17, current use was 6.6 percent in Missouri and 7.2 percent nationwide. Missouri and the U.S. had identical marijuana use rates of 13.6 percent in the 18-25 age group. Among older adults, 2.5 percent of Missouri residents and 3.0 percent nationally were currently using marijuana when the 1999 and 2000 surveys were conducted.
  - **Tobacco:** Among Missouri adolescents 12-17 years of age, almost one-fifth were current users of cigarettes or another tobacco product in 2000. Cigarette smokers comprised 15.1 percent of this age group in Missouri, compared to 13.4 percent of the 12-17 year olds nationwide. More than one-half of Missouri young adults 18-25 years of age were current tobacco users, and 45.6 percent were smokers. This compares to a nationwide smoking rate of 38.3 percent for the 18-25 age group, with Missouri exceeding the national rate by 7.3 percentage points. Missouri's cigarette smoking rate among adults over age 25 was 28.3 percent, more than four percentage points higher than the national rate.
- Another measurement of tobacco use is derived from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System [55]. Between 2000 and 2001, Missouri showed some improvement in adult cigarette smoking, with current use dropping from 27.2 percent to 25.9 percent of the population 18 years of age and older. Missouri's adult smoking rate is approximately three percentage points greater than the median rate of 22.8 percent among all states. In 2000, Missouri was ranked third highest in smoking rates. However, Missouri's prevalence decreased in 2001 while rates in some other states increased. As a result, Missouri currently ranks ninth in adult smoking with rates lower than Kentucky, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Nevada, Alaska, and South Carolina. Cigarette sales in Missouri declined for the sixth consecutive year [42].
  - Alcohol consumption among the Missouri population age 14 and older increased for the fourth consecutive year, with per capita consumption reaching 2.26 gallons of ethanol (absolute alcohol) in 1999, the year of the most recent estimate. Per capita consumption for the United States for the same age group is 2.21 gallons [56].
  - Domestic violence reports totaled 37,277 in 2001, not including the city of St. Louis. One-fourth of these reports involved a spouse, and one-fifth involved a cohabitating partner or roommate [29].
  - Little change was reported for substance abuse during pregnancy [19].
    - The reported number of mothers of newborns who drank during their pregnancies increased slightly from 548 in 2000 to 553 in 2001, and the rate of reported consumption in-

- creased from 7.20 per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 7.34 in 2001. Maternal alcohol consumption during pregnancy is known to be considerably under-reported.
- The reported number of mothers of newborns who smoked during their pregnancies decreased from 13,955 in 2000 to 13,761 in 2001, but the reported rate remained unchanged at 18.3 percent.
- A lower dropout rate for high school students in grades 9-12 continued a multi-year downward trend that ran throughout the 1990's. The dropout rate decreased from 5.1 percent in 2001 to 3.9 percent in 2002 [9].
  - Reported cases of Hepatitis C continue to increase rapidly in Missouri. Missouri recorded 2,474 cases in 1999; 4,884 cases in 2000; and 8,447 in 2001 [20]. The National Institute on Drug Abuse estimates that 60 percent of Hepatitis C cases result from injection drug use, with many of the exposures originating in earlier years [58].
  - Deaths for medical conditions with an underlying cause of alcohol or drug abuse increased in 2001. Alcohol related deaths increased from 324 to 348 and drug related deaths increased from 332 to 378 [12].
  - Alcohol related traffic crashes decreased slightly, from 8,417 in 2000 to 8,393 in 2001. However, fatal crashes attributed to alcohol intoxication increased from 221 to 241, resulting in 266 deaths [35, 38].
  - Drug related crashes decreased from 785 to 779, and the number of people killed in these crashes dropped from 38 to 17 [36, 39].
  - The Missouri State Highway Patrol implemented the Missouri portion of the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) system in 2001. This system ensures mandatory reporting of certain types of offenses and most types of arrests, resulting in a more comprehensive, unduplicated count of arrests including DUI/DWI, drug manufacturing and distribution, and drug possession. In 2001, reported arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs totaled 36,129. There were 8,549 arrests for the sale or manufacturing of drugs and 34,274 arrests for possession of illicit drugs [32]. Law enforcement agencies made 2,130 seizures of methamphetamine labs, chemicals, equipment, and dumpsites [33]. Due to the new reporting requirements, the UCR data for 2001 cannot be compared to offense and arrest data for previous years.
  - Prison admissions for drug offenses increased from 4,648 in FY2001 to 5,212 in FY2002. New incarcerations for driving while intoxicated decreased from 1,332 in FY2001 to 1,239 in FY2002 [1]. On the last day of FY2001, Missouri prisons held 5,907 inmates convicted of drug offenses and 1,184 convicted of driving while intoxicated. One year later, on the last day of FY2002, the prisons held 6,415 drug offenders—an increase of 508, and 1,243 DWI offenders—an increase of 59 [3]. Probation and parole openings for drug offenses increased from 9,982 in FY2001 to 10,421 in FY2002. Probation and parole openings for DWI offenses decreased during this period—from 2,602 in FY2001 to 2,490 in FY2002 [2].